United Nations A/63/L.66

General Assembly

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30 March 2009

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Sixty-third session
Agenda item 48
Follow-up to and implementation of the outcome of the 2002 International Conference on Financing for Development and the preparation of the 2008 Review Conference

Draft resolution submitted by the President of the General Assembly

Organization of the United Nations conference at the highest level on the world financial and economic crisis and its impact on development

The General Assembly,

Recalling the Monterrey Consensus[1] and the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development: outcome document of the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus,[2] as well as its resolution 63/239, in which it endorsed the Doha Declaration, which states that the United Nations will hold a conference at the highest level on the world financial and economic crisis and its impact on development, to be organized by the President of the General Assembly with the modalities to be defined by March 2009 at the latest,

Conscious of the importance of examining and overcoming the deepening world financial and economic crisis and its impact on development, concerned about the present and future impacts of the crisis on, inter alia, employment, trade, investment and development, including the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals and the Millennium Development Goals, convinced of the urgency of undertaking coordinated and collaborative actions and appropriate measures to mitigate the impact of the crisis on development, emphasizing the importance of the role of the United Nations and its Member States in the ongoing international discussions on reforming and strengthening the international financial

[1] *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18-22 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[2] General Assembly resolution 63/239, annex.

09-28337 (E) 300309

and economic system and architecture, and stressing the contributions of the United Nations development system in the response to the crisis,

1. *Decides* that the conference at the highest level on the world financial and economic crisis and its impact on development:

(a) Will be convened at United Nations Headquarters from 1 to 3 June 2009;

(b) Will be held at the highest level;

(c) Will be presided over by the President of the General Assembly;

(d) Will consist of:

(i) A short opening session;

(ii) Plenary meetings;

(iii) Four interactive round tables, which will address the main issues before the Conference as outlined above;

(e) Will result in a concise outcome to be agreed by Member States;

(f) Will also result in summaries of the round-table discussions, to be included in the final report of the Conference;

2. *Invites* the Holy See, in its capacity as Observer State, and Palestine, in its capacity as Observer, to participate in the Conference;

3. *Invites* the United Nations funds and programmes, and the specialized agencies of the United Nations system, including the International Labour Organization and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the Bretton Woods institutions, the World Trade Organization, the regional development banks, the regional commissions of the United Nations, non-governmental organizations and civil society and business sector entities to participate in the Conference and in the preparatory process of the Conference in accordance with the rules of procedure of the General Assembly and, in addition, where appropriate, the rules adopted for the Monterrey Conference and the Doha Conference, with the practical arrangements and modalities for participation in the Conference, including the accreditation procedures for non-governmental organizations and civil society and business sector entities, to be dealt with in the note referred to below;

4. *Requests* the Secretariat, in close collaboration with the office of the President of the General Assembly, to provide by no later than 20 April a note on the organization of work of the Conference;

5. *Welcomes* the special high-level meeting in 2009 of the Economic and Social Council with the Bretton Woods institutions, the World Trade Organization and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, which will include a session devoted to a comprehensive discussion of the global financial and economic crisis and its impact on development, and invites the Council to provide a summary of the discussion by the President of the Council as an input to the preparatory process for the draft outcome document of the Conference;

6. *Notes with appreciation* the initiative of the President of the General Assembly in organizing the interactive, thematic dialogue on the world financial and economic crisis and its impact on development, held from 25 to 27 March 2009, as a contribution to the preparatory process;

7. *Welcomes* the initiative of the regional commissions, with the support of regional financial institutions, including regional development banks, and other relevant entities, to hold regional consultations, and invites them to provide inputs as early as possible to the preparatory process for the Conference;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to prepare a report, based upon the analytical work of United Nations programmes, departments and organizations, on the origins and causes of the present crisis, the mechanisms of its transmission to the developing countries, the potential impact of the crisis on development, the response of the United Nations to the crisis through its development activities and national and international policy responses to date;

9. *Requests* the President of the General Assembly, through an open, transparent and inclusive process led by the Member States, to present in a timely manner a draft text based upon all preparatory inputs to serve as the basis for an outcome document, to be agreed by the Member States;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide all appropriate assistance to the preparatory process and the Conference.

United Nations A/63/L.67

General Assembly

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Sixty-third session
Agenda item 65 (b)
Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance: special economic assistance to individual countries or regions

Afghanistan, Algeria, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Cape Verde, Chile, Cuba, Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, Egypt, Estonia, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guinea-Bissau, Iraq, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Maldives, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Nicaragua, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Singapore, Slovenia, Sudan, Switzerland, Tajikistan, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United States of America, Uzbekistan, Viet Nam and Zambia: draft resolution

International cooperation and coordination for the human and ecological rehabilitation and economic development of the Semipalatinsk region of Kazakhstan

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 52/169 M of 16 December 1997, 53/1 H of 16 November 1998, 55/44 of 27 November 2000, 57/101 of 25 November 2002 and 60/216 of 22 December 2005,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General,[1] and the information contained therein on measures undertaken to address health, environmental, economic and humanitarian development problems and satisfaction of needs of the Semipalatinsk region,

Recognizing that the Semipalatinsk nuclear testing ground, inherited by Kazakhstan and closed in 1991, remains a matter of serious concern for the people and Government of Kazakhstan with regard to the long-term nature of its

[1] A/63/659.

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consequences for the lives and health of the people, especially children and other vulnerable groups, as well as for the environment of the region,

Taking into consideration the results of the international conference on the problems of the Semipalatinsk region, held in Tokyo in 1999, which have promoted the effectiveness of the assistance provided to the population of the region,

Recognizing the important role of national development policies and strategies in the rehabilitation of the Semipalatinsk region, and taking note with satisfaction of the successful accomplishment of the Kazakhstan national programme entitled "Complex solution of the former Semipalatinsk nuclear test site problems for 2005-2007" and the elaboration of the new cycle of the programme for 2009-2011,

Recognizing also the challenges Kazakhstan faces in the rehabilitation of the Semipalatinsk region, in particular in the context of the efforts by the Government of Kazakhstan to ensure an effective and timely achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, in particular on health care and environmental sustainability,

Recognizing further that the Government of Kazakhstan may call upon the United Nations Resident Coordinator in Kazakhstan to render assistance in conducting consultations regarding establishing a multi-stakeholders' mechanism, with the participation of various government bodies, local governments, civil society, the donor community and international organizations, to improve governance and enable the more efficient use of resources allocated to the rehabilitation of the Semipalatinsk region, in particular regarding the areas of radiation safety, socio-economic development, health, environmental protection, and the provision of information and risk communication to the population,

Expressing profound concern regarding the negative effects of nuclear testing on the sustainability of the ecosystem in the region and the accumulation of radioactive substances in the soil, resulting in a wide scope and a complexity of nuclear testing consequences that create humanitarian, environmental, social, economic and health problems,

Taking note of the need for utilization of modern technologies in minimizing and mitigating radiological, health, socio-economic, psychological and environmental challenges in the Semipalatinsk region,

Taking into account the fact that a number of international programmes in the Semipalatinsk region have been completed since the closure of the nuclear testing grounds, whereas serious social, economic and ecological problems continue to exist,

Expressing deep concern that the current efforts are not sufficient to alleviate consequences of nuclear testing, and regarding the fact that only 5 of the 38 projects identified by the international conference in Tokyo held in 1999 were implemented,

Emphasizing the importance of support by donor States and international development organizations for the efforts by Kazakhstan to improve the social, economic and environmental situation in the Semipalatinsk region, and, in this regard, stressing the need for the international community to continue to pay due attention to the rehabilitation of the Semipalatinsk region,

Emphasizing also the importance of the new development-oriented approach in tackling problems in the Semipalatinsk region in the medium and long term,

Stressing the importance of the commemoration, in 2011, of the upcoming twentieth anniversary of the closure of the Semipalatinsk nuclear test site,

Expressing appreciation to donor countries especially to the Government of Japan, United Nations agencies, in particular the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Population Fund and the International Atomic Energy Agency, and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the World Bank, and the Global Environment Facility for their contribution to the rehabilitation of the Semipalatinsk region,

1. *Welcomes and recognizes* the important role of the Government of Kazakhstan in providing domestic resources to help meet the needs of the Semipalatinsk region, including for the implementation of the Kazakhstan national multi-year programme entitled "Complex solution of the former Semipalatinsk nuclear test site problems for 2005-2007";

2. *Calls upon* the international community, including all Member States, in particular donor States, and United Nations institutions to continue to support Kazakhstan in addressing the challenges of the rehabilitation of the Semipalatinsk region and its population, taking additional actions, including by facilitating the implementation of the Kazakhstan national programme on addressing the problems of the former Semipalatinsk nuclear testing ground in a comprehensive manner, and stresses the importance of the regional cooperation in this regard;

3. *Urges* the international community to provide assistance to Kazakhstan in the formulation and implementation of special programmes and projects of treatment and care for the affected population as well as in the efforts to ensure economic growth and sustainable development in the Semipalatinsk region;

4. *Calls upon* Member States, relevant multilateral financial organizations and other entities of the international community, including academia and non-governmental organizations, to share their knowledge and experience in order to contribute to the human and ecological rehabilitation and economic development of the Semipalatinsk region;

5. *Welcomes* initiatives commemorating the closure of the former Semipalatinsk test site and the twentieth anniversary of the international anti-nuclear movement "Nevada-Semei", and the international conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency on remediation of land contaminated by radioactive material residues, to be held in 2009 in Kazakhstan, and invites the international community to participate in these events;

6. *Invites* Member States to observe, in 2011, the twentieth anniversary of the closure of the Semipalatinsk nuclear test site through conducting relevant events and functions to deliver to the international community information on the deteriorating consequences of nuclear testing on human health and environment;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue his efforts in implementing relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and to encourage the donor community and international and regional organizations to fulfil their commitments declared at the Tokyo international conference;

8. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to pursue a consultative process, with the participation of interested States and relevant United Nations agencies, on modalities for mobilizing and coordinating the necessary support to seek appropriate solutions to the problems and needs of the Semipalatinsk region, including those prioritized in the report of the Secretary-General;

9. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to enhance world public awareness of the problems and needs of the Semipalatinsk region;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-sixth session, under the agenda item entitled "Sustainable development", on progress made in the implementation of the present resolution.

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General Assembly

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Sixty-third session
Agenda item 54*
Operational activities for development

Sudan: draft resolution**

High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolution 33/134 of 19 December 1978, in which it endorsed the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries,[1]

Recalling also its resolutions 62/209 of 19 December 2007 and 63/233 of 19 December 2008, in which it decided to convene a High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation on the occasion of the thirtieth anniversary of the adoption of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, no later than the first half of 2009,

Taking note with appreciation of the report of the President of the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation submitted pursuant to its resolutions 62/209 and 63/233,[2]

Reaffirming its previous resolutions relevant and pertaining to South-South cooperation,

Welcoming with appreciation the generous offer of the Government of Kenya to host the High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation,

1. *Decides* that the High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation:

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* In order for the General Assembly to take action on the present proposal, it will be necessary to reopen consideration of agenda item 63 (b) and to consider it directly in plenary meeting.

** On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

[1] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, Buenos Aires, 30 August-12 September 1978* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.78.II.A.11 and corrigendum), chap. I.

[2] A/63/741, annex.

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(a) Will be held at Nairobi from 22 to 24 June 2009;

(b) Will be held at the highest level;

(c) Will have the overarching theme "Promotion of South-South cooperation";

(d) Will consist of plenary meetings and interactive multi-stakeholder round tables on the following sub-themes:

(i) Strengthening the role of the United Nations system in supporting South-South cooperation;

(ii) The role of triangular cooperation in sustaining the efforts of the South;

(iii) Constraints and challenges, including those posed by the current financial and economic crisis, and their impact on the South;

(e) Will result in an intergovernmentally agreed outcome;

(f) Will also result in summaries by the Chair;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to prepare a comprehensive report, consistent with the overarching theme of the Conference, reviewing the trends in South-South cooperation, including triangular cooperation, as well as the progress made by the international community, in particular by the United Nations, in supporting and promoting such cooperation, as well as identifying new challenges and constraints and measures to overcome them;

3. *Reiterates* the role of the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation within the United Nations Development Programme as a separate entity and a focal point for South-South cooperation, and requests the Unit to continue to provide necessary substantive and technical support to the preparatory process for the Conference;

4. *Encourages* Member States, as well as other participating partners, to prepare their reports on South-South and triangular cooperation for the purpose of the Conference, on a voluntary basis;

5. *Requests* the President of the General Assembly to initiate informal consultations with all Member States, in an open, inclusive and transparent manner, with a view to producing a draft outcome document which will form the basis of negotiations for an intergovernmentally agreed outcome;

6. *Invites* United Nations organizations, the specialized agencies, regional commissions, as well as funds and programmes to provide their inputs to the preparations for the Conference, and further invites relevant United Nations bodies to organize regional, subregional and sectoral United Nations meetings prior to the Conference;

7. *Invites* international and regional organizations, international financial institutions, non-governmental organizations and business sector entities to participate in the Conference, in accordance with the rules and procedures of the General Assembly;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide all necessary assistance to the preparatory process and the Conference;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to proceed with the organizational arrangements for the Conference in cooperation with the Government of Kenya, and further requests the Secretary-General to provide a note on the organizational aspects of the Conference;

10. *Encourages* all Member States and other relevant stakeholders, in a position to do so, to consider supporting the participation of developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, including by making voluntary contributions through the United Nations Fund for South-South Cooperation, in order to ensure the broadest possible participation;

11. *Decides* to postpone the sixteenth session of the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation from 2 to 5 June 2009 to one convenient day in November 2009.

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Sixty-third session
Agenda item 49 (d)
Sustainable development: protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind

Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Barbados, Belarus, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cape Verde, Chile, China, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Luxembourg, Mongolia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Paraguay, Philippines, Portugal, Saint Lucia, Serbia, Seychelles, Somalia, Spain, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Togo, Uruguay and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of): draft resolution*

International Mother Earth Day

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming Agenda 21,[1] and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation"),[2]

Recalling the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[3]

Recalling also its resolution 60/192 of 22 December 2005, proclaiming 2008 the International Year of Planet Earth,

Acknowledging that the Earth and its ecosystems are our home, and convinced that in order to achieve a just balance among the economic, social, and environmental needs of present and future generations, it is necessary to promote harmony with nature and the Earth,

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* In order for the General Assembly to take action on the present draft resolution, it will be necessary for the Assembly to decide to consider agenda item 49 (d) directly in plenary meeting.

[1] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex II.

[2] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

[3] Resolution 60/1.

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Recognizing that Mother Earth is a common expression for the planet earth in a number of countries and regions, which reflects the interdependence that exists among human beings, other living species and the planet we all inhabit,

Noting that Earth Day is observed each year in many countries,

1. *Decides* to designate 22 April as International Mother Earth Day;

2. *Invites* all Member States, the organizations of the United Nations system, international, regional and subregional organizations, civil society, non-governmental organizations and relevant stakeholders to observe and raise awareness of International Mother Earth Day, as appropriate;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to bring the present resolution to the attention of all Member States and organizations of the United Nations system.

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Sixty-third session
Agenda item 113
Multilingualism

Andorra, Austria, Belgium, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Gabon, Greece, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritius, Monaco, Morocco, Niger, Romania, Senegal, Switzerland, Togo and Viet Nam: draft resolution

Multilingualism

The General Assembly,

Recognizing that the United Nations pursues multilingualism as a means of promoting, protecting and preserving diversity of languages and cultures globally,

Recognizing also that genuine multilingualism promotes unity in diversity and international understanding, and recognizing the importance of the capacity to communicate to the peoples of the world in their own languages, including in formats accessible to persons with disabilities,

Stressing the need for strict observance of the resolutions and rules establishing language arrangements for the different bodies and organs of the United Nations,

Recalling the central role of multilingualism in the activities of the United Nations, including those linked to public relations and information,

Recalling also its resolution 47/135 of 18 December 1992, by which it adopted the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities, and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,[1] in particular article 27 thereof, concerning the rights of persons belonging to ethnic, religious or linguistic minorities,

Recalling further its resolutions 2 (I) of 1 February 1946, 2480 B (XXIII) of 21 December 1968, 42/207 C of 11 December 1987, 50/11 of 2 November 1995, 52/23 of 25 November 1997, 54/64 of 6 December 1999, 56/262 of 15 February 2002, 59/309 of 22 June 2005, 61/121 B of 14 December 2006 and 61/236 and 61/244 of 22 December 2006, 61/266 of 16 May 2007, 63/100 A and B of 5 December 2008 and 63/246 and 63/248 of 24 December 2008,

[1] See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

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1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General[2] and the note by which the Secretary-General transmitted the interim report on the impact of the activities carried out by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization during the International Year of Languages (2008);[3]

2. *Also takes note* of the appointment of a new Coordinator for Multilingualism, and calls upon the Secretary to reinforce the informal network of focal points in order to support the coordinator;

3. *Emphasizes* the paramount importance of the equality of the six official languages of the United Nations;

4. *Underlines* the need for full implementation of the resolutions establishing language arrangements for the official languages of the United Nations and the working languages of the Secretariat;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that all language services are given equal treatment and are provided with equally favourable working conditions and resources, with a view to achieving maximum quality of those services, with full respect for the specificities of the six official languages and taking into account their respective workloads;

6. *Reiterates its request* to the Secretary-General to complete the task of uploading all important older United Nations documents onto the United Nations website in all six official languages on a priority basis, so that those archives are also available to Member States through that medium;

7. *Reiterates* that all content-providing offices in the Secretariat should continue their efforts to translate into all official languages all English-language materials and databases posted on the United Nations website in the most practical, efficient and cost-effective manner;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to ensure, through the provision of documentation services and meeting and publishing services under conference management, including high-quality translation and interpretation, effective multilingual communication among representatives of Member States in intergovernmental organs and members of expert bodies of the United Nations equally in all the official languages of the United Nations;

9. *Stresses* the importance of providing United Nations information, technical assistance and training materials, whenever possible, in the local languages of the beneficiary countries;

10. *Recalls* its resolution 63/248, in which it reaffirmed the provisions relating to conference services of its resolutions on multilingualism;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take the needed actions to insure the replacement of retiring personnel, including through international recruitment and the strengthening of cooperation with institutions that train language specialists;

12. *Notes with satisfaction* the willingness of the Secretariat to encourage staff members, in meetings with interpretation services, to use any of the six official languages of which they have a command;

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[2] A/63/338.

[3] A/63/349.

13. *Underlines* that a good command of the official language(s) spoken in the country of residence should be taken into account as an additional tool in the selection of peacekeeping operations personnel;

14. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to take the required actions to employ, in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations of the Secretariat, personnel competent in using the two working languages of the Secretariat in order to insure good interaction between Headquarters and the field and the safety of the peacekeeping staff;

15. *Recalls* its resolution 63/248 once again, and reiterates its request to the Secretary-General to make sure that the rules establishing the high quality of the translation and the simultaneous distribution of documents are respected, both in regard to paper documentation and publication on the United Nations website;

16. *Underlines* that actions must be taken to guarantee that all official languages of the United Nations are treated equally in all the activities of the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat, with the aim of eliminating all disparities between the use of English and that of the five other official languages, and in this regard exhorts the Secretary-General to ensure that the Department has appropriate staffing capacity in all the official languages of the United Nations to undertake all its activities;

17. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to develop and maintain multilingual United Nations websites;

18. *Reaffirms* that the United Nations website is an essential tool for the Member States, the media, educational institutions, the general public and non-governmental organizations, and reiterates the continued need for efforts by the Department of Public Information to maintain and improve it in all official languages of the United Nations;

19. *Also reaffirms* its request to the Secretary-General to ensure, while maintaining an up-to-date and accurate website, the adequate distribution of financial and human resources within the Department of Public Information allocated to the United Nations website among all official languages, taking into consideration the specificity of each official language;

20. *Notes with preoccupation* that the development and enrichment of the United Nations website in several official languages has improved at a much slower rate than expected, and in this regard exhorts the Department of Public Information, in coordination with content-providing offices, to improve the actions taken to achieve parity among the six official languages on the United Nations website, in particular by expediting the filling of current vacant posts in some sections;

21. *Requests* the Department of Public Information, in cooperation with the Information Technology Services Division of the Department of Management of the Secretariat, to continue its efforts to ensure that technological infrastructures and supportive applications fully support Latin, non-Latin and bidirectional scripts in order to enhance the equality of all official languages on the United Nations website;

22. *Welcomes* the cooperative arrangements undertaken by the Department of Public Information with academic institutions to increase the number of web pages available in some official language, and requests the Secretary-General, in coordination with content-providing offices, to extend these cooperative

arrangements to all official languages of the United Nations, bearing in mind the necessity of adherence to United Nations standards and guidelines;

23. *Notes with satisfaction* the official launch of iSeek in Geneva in the two working languages of the Secretariat, and encourages the Secretariat to continue its efforts to implement iSeek at all duty stations as well as to develop and implement cost-neutral measures to provide Member States with secure access to the information currently accessible only on the Intranet of the Secretariat;

24. *Notes with appreciation* the work carried out by the United Nations centres, including the United Nations Regional Information Centre, in favour of the publication of United Nations information materials and the translation of important documents into languages other than the official languages of the United Nations, with a view to reaching the widest possible audience and extending the United Nations message to all corners of the world in order to strengthen international support for the activities of the Organization; and encourages United Nations information centres to continue their multilingual activities in the interactive and proactive aspects of their work, especially by arranging seminars and debates to further the spread of information and the understanding and exchange of views regarding United Nations activity at the local level;

25. *Recalls* its resolution 61/244, in which it reaffirmed the need to respect the equality of the two working languages of the Secretariat, reaffirmed the use of additional working languages in specific duty stations as mandated, and in that regard requested the Secretary-General to ensure that vacancy announcements specified the need for either of the working languages of the Secretariat, unless the functions of the post required a specific working language;

26. *Also recalls* paragraph 17 of section II of its resolution 61/244, in which it acknowledged that the interaction of the United Nations with the local population in the field was essential and that language skills constituted an important element of the selection and training processes, and therefore affirmed that a good command of the official language(s) spoken in the country of residence should be taken into account as an additional asset during those processes;

27. *Stresses* that the employment of staff shall continue to be carried out in strict accordance with Article 101 of the Charter of the United Nations and in line with the relevant provisions of General Assembly resolutions;

28. *Also stresses* that the promotion of staff in the Professional and higher categories should be carried out in strict accordance with Article 101 of the Charter and in line with the provisions of resolution 2480 B (XXIII) and the relevant provisions of resolution 55/258 of 14 June 2001;

29. *Encourages* United Nations staff members to continue actively to use existing training facilities to acquire and enhance their proficiency in one or more of the official languages of the United Nations;

30. *Recalls* that linguistic diversity is an important element of cultural diversity, and takes note of the entry into force on 18 March 2007 of the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions;[4]

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[4] United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, *Records of the General Conference, Thirty-third Session, Paris, 3-21 October 2005*, vol. 1 and corrigenda: *Resolutions*, chap. V, resolution 41.

31. *Compliments* the activities of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, Member States, the United Nations system and all the other participating bodies aiming at fostering respect for and the promotion and protection of all languages, in particular endangered ones, linguistic diversity and multilingualism;

32. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session a comprehensive report on the full implementation of its resolutions on multilingualism;

33. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-fifth session the item entitled "Multilingualism".